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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - PRESIDENT BUSH - FOREIGN
POLICY
PARIS - THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2005

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

PRESIDENT BUSH - FOREIGN POLICY

B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

A VARIETY OF DOMESTIC AND EUROPEAN STORIES MAKE TODAY'S HEADLINES, INCLUDING INTERIOR MINISTER DE VILLEPIN'S PLAN TO REDUCE ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION (LIBERATION); THE CANNES FILM FESTIVAL (LE FIGARO); PARIS AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES OF 2012 (FRANCE SOIR). FINANCIAL LA TRIBUNE DEVOTES ITS LEAD TO THE CONTINUING BATTLE AT THE HELM OF EADS AND AIRBUS WHILE ECONOMIC LES ECHOS LEADS WITH FRANCE'S DROP IN INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2005. BUT BOTH DAILIES DEVOTE THEIR EDITORIALS TO THE EXECUTIVE LIFE TRIAL: THE "IRRATIONALITY" OF AMERICAN COURTS (LA TRIBUNE) AS WELL AS THE OUTCOME OF A "BALANCED VERDICT AFTER THE CRIMINAL TRIAL'S MIXED JUSTICE OF REVENGE AND FOREIGN POLICY - AN ANTI-FRENCH CAMPAIGN ON THE EVE OF THE IRAQ CONFLICT." (LES ECHOS)

WITH GERMANY'S RATIFICATION OF THE EU CONSTITUTION TODAY, REPORTS ON FRANCE'S TUG-OF-WAR ON THE REFERENDUM CONTINUE. ONE ARTICLE IN LE FIGARO REPORTS ON FORMER MINISTER AND FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE EU PARLIAMENT SIMONE VEIL, WHO IS PRO THE CONSTITUTION BUT AGAINST TURKEY'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNION. THE ARTICLE TITLED: "SIMONE SAYS NO TO ANKARA" ADDS: "THE ONLY ISSUE OVER WHICH THE 'EURO-SKEPTICS' AND THE 'EUROPHILES' AGREE IS THEIR OPPOSITION TO TURKEY'S EU MEMBERSHIP."

PRESIDENT BUSH'S POLICY IN FAVOR OF DEMOCRATIZATION IS PRAISED IN LE FIGARO'S EDITORIAL (SEE PART C) WHILE LE MONDE CARRIES A FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE TITLED "AMERICAN 'HAWKS' STEP BACK." CORRESPONDENT CORINE LESNES WRITES: "THE TENORS OF NEO-CONSERVATISM HAVE LEFT THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION. WHILE AT THE SENATE THE DEMOCRATS ARE DELIVERING A HARSH BATTLE TO STOP BOLTON FROM BEING CONFIRMED. WASHINGTON'S HAWKS HAVE LOST SOME OF THEIR COMBATIVENESS, PARTICULARLY CONSIDERING THAT IN IRAQ, THERE ARE FEW OCCASIONS TO CROW."

YESTERDAY'S TERRORIST ATTACKS IN IRAQ ARE WIDELY REPORTED, WITH TITLES SUCH AS: "NEW CARNAGE IN IRAQ: 84 DEAD" (LE FIGARO); "ANOTHER DEADLY DAY IN IRAQ" (LIBERATION); FRANCE SOIR HEADLINES "BLOOD BATH IN IRAQ." CATHOLIC LA CROIX TITLES ITS PIECE "NUMEROUS ATTACKS CAUSE 400 CASUALTIES IN 8 DAYS." THE 'MATADOR' OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE GUERRILLAS IS REPORTED IN LE MONDE AS BEING THE "PENTAGON'S NEW STRATEGY" TO SQUASH THE UPRISING. LE MONDE ALSO REPORTS: "IN THE SPAN OF TWO YEARS THE 'COALITION OF THE WILLING' HAS LOST HALF OF ITS MEMBERS." LEFT-OF-CENTER WEEKLY LE NOUVEL ONSERVATEUR INTERVIEWS PASCAL BONIFACE, DIRECTOR OF IRIS (INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIC RELATIONS) ON THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S APPROACH TO INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND THE IMPACT OF THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT ON THE "SHOCK BETWEEN CIVILIZATIONS." IN THE INTERVIEW, TITLED "MIDDLE EAST: IF BUSH ONLY WANTED." BONIFACE STATES: "THE FIGHT AGAINST INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM IS NOT, LIKE THE U.S. IS SAYING, THE FOURTH WORLD WAR. IN FACT TO SAY THIS IS INTELLECTUAL FRAUD. THE POINT IS TO CONVINCE THE WORLD WE ARE IN GREAT DANGER. LET'S BE CLEAR ABOUT ONE THING: RESOLUTION OF THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT WOULD NOT SOLVE EVERYTHING. TERRORISM WOULD NOT BE ERADICATED AS IF BY MIRACLE. BUT WHILE WE APPLAUD THE UN RESOLUTION FORCING SYRIA TO WITHDRAW FROM LEBANON. WE ALSO WONDER WHY THE 1967 RESOLUTION ON THE ISRAELI PULL OUT FROM THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES IS NOT BEING IMPLEMENTED? IT IS CLEAR THAT THE AMERICANS HAVE GIVEN THEIR UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT TO ISRAEL AT THE UN. BUSH HOLDS ALL THE CARDS IN FAVOR OF A RESOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT. BUT IS HE READY TO PLAY HIS HAND?"

(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:

PRESIDENT BUSH - FOREIGN POLICY

"A NEW BUSH"

PIERRE ROUSSELIN IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO (05/12): "IT IS A NEW BUSH WE DISCOVERED DURING HIS RECENT TRIP TO THE FORMER SOVIET UNION WHICH ENDED IN TRIUMPH IN GEORGIA. PRESIDENT

BUSH, LIKE KENNEDY AND REAGAN, HAS ADOPTED DEMOCRATIZING THE WORLD AS HIS LINE OF ACTION. A STRONG ACTION WHICH IS REGISTERING UNDENIABLE SUCCESSES. HIS FIRST TERM WAS CHARACTERIZED BY THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM, WITH THE TERM 'CRUSADE' AS A MISNOMER. WHILE THE FIGHT CONTINUES IN AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ, THE WHITE HOUSE IS NO LONGER OBSESSED WITH THIS MONO-MANIA. THIS IS IN ITSELF A SUCCESS. PRESIDENT BUSH'S RE-ELECTION HAS CHANGED ALL THAT. PUTTING AN END TO TYRANNY AROUND THE WORLD IS HIS NEW CREDO. AND DEMOCRATIZATION HAS INDEED SCORED SOME POINTS. THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION, WHICH IS BY NATURE INTERVENTIONIST, HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN THESE CHANGES. WHILE IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE SUCH ADVANCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST, PRESIDENT BUSH VERY CLEVERLY MANAGED TO BE PROCLAIMED THE WORLD'S 'DEMOCRATIZOR' DURING HIS VISIT IN GEORGIA AND THE BALTIC NATIONS. THIS IS WHERE HE HOLDS THE STRONGEST SUIT. IT IS TIME TO TAKE THE MEASURE OF THE NOBLE AMBITION THAT GEORGE W. BUSH HAS GIVEN HIMSELF FOR HIS SECOND TERM. LET'S STOP SEEING HIM ONLY AS THE MAN WHO LET LOOSE WAR IN IRAQ. THE STRUGGLE AGAINST TYRANNY IS NOT JUST A SLOGAN PULLED FROM THE NEO-CONSERVATIVE CATECHISM. IT'S ALSO A REAL LINE OF ACTION. IT WOULD BE GOOD TO JOIN IN, WITHOUT SECOND THOUGHTS, AN UNDERTAKING THAT FASCINATES ALL THE COUNTRIES RECENTLY LIBERATED FROM THE YOKE OF DICTATORSHIPS. BECAUSE, WHEN IT COMES TO DEMOCRACY, EUROPE AND FRANCE SHOULD NOT ACCEPT TO BE OUTDISTANCED BY THE UNITED STATES. BE IT IN UKRAINE OR IN GEORGIA OR EVEN IN TOGO." WOLFF